

REMARKS

Applicants first address the matter set out in paragraph 1 of the Action wherein the Examiner says that the Amendment filed January 5, 2004 in this case refers to "Application Serial No. 10/038, 792". As requested, a copy of the amendment is being resubmitted herewith. However, the amendment in its title block does refer to the proper Serial No. 10/038,743 for this case. Apparently the Examiner has been confused by an Amendment to the specification where the Applicants direct that a new heading and paragraph be inserted at page one of the specification after the title.

The heading and paragraph that is inserted makes reference to a "related" application 10/038, 792. This related application (Ser. No 10/038, 792) and the subject application (Ser. No. 10/038, 743) are related in that they both involve the application of a lamination to a printed medium but the two applications are independent in that one is neither the continuation nor a divisional of the other.

Response to the Restriction Requirement

Applicants hereby provisionally elect the invention of Group I, Claims 1-8 with traverse.

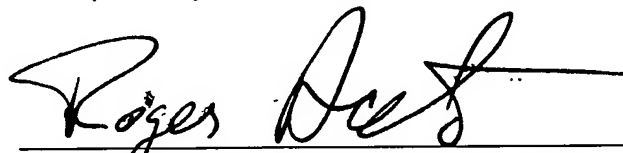
The Examiner indicates that the inventions are distinct in part because "the core having one or more teeth for engaging the slot is not needed to impart patentability to the combination claim". Claim 19 (the independent combination Claim of Group II) has been amended to include the teeth of the cartridge of Claim 1. In particular Claim 19 is amended to recite that the donor cartridge portion has "one or more teeth engaging the cartridge-receiving slot of the cartridge holder". With this amendment both the combination and subcombination Claims 19 and 1 respectively have common subject matter.

The Examiner further indicates that restriction is proper because the subcombination of Claims 1-8 "has separate utility such as being used in a device which simply requires a laminate feeder or being used in a labeling

system rather than a laminate overcoat system". However, Claim 1 specifically indicates that the cartridge is "receivable in an overcoat apparatus holder having a slot". Also, the claim goes on to recite elements of the cartridge that cooperate with "the slot of the overcoat apparatus holder". This wording would appear to preclude use of the cartridge in association with other systems since such other systems would not have "the slot of the overcoat apparatus". Claim 19 is more explicit in its recitation of the overcoat apparatus (which is implicit in Claim 1) so that Claim 19 would appear to be merely an alternate expression of the invention as set out in Claim 1.

Given the close relationship of the inventions of Group I and II in view of the commonly recited elements, Applicants believe that a common search would be appropriate so that an examination efficiency is gained by maintaining the claims of Groups I and II in a single application. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that all claims be examined in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Aceto", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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